situation. However a close watch is being kept on the activities of such persons.

Guidelines regarding minimum regional wages

202. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 6th May, 1986 the Central Government issued draft guidelines to the States regarding minimum regional wages; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) what has been the State-wise response thereto;

(c) whether the draft guidelines have been finalised; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the regional occupations wherein different States have shown willingness to enforce the minimum wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The details are given in Annexure-I. [*See* Appendix CXLIII, Annexure No. 5].

(b) and (c) A summary of the replies from various State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations is given in Annexure-II. [*See* Appendix CXLIII, Annexure No. 6]. In the light of the comments received, the matter was placed before the meeting of the State Labour Secretaries held on the 29-30th April, 1987 and the State Labour Ministers' Conference held on the 20th May, 1987. In the light of the conclusions of the Labour Ministers' Conference, the guidelines have been finalised. These are given in Annexure-III. [*See* Appendix CXLIII, Annexure No. 7].

(d) As per the guidelines, the Regional Minimum Wages Advisory Committee will consider the question of recommending the regional minimum wages employment-wise for selected employment(s). The Committee will go into specific employment (s) i.e. where minimum wages for the same employment(s) in one of a set of contiguous States caused problems in other State(s). The names of the employments have not been finalised.

Smuggling of cement in MCD

203. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of cement which was being smuggled out of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi godown was recently seized by the police;

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter; and

(c) what is the number of cases of theft of cement from Government godowns detected during 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) 650 bags of cement smuggled out of MCD godown were seized by Delhi Police.

(b) 2 cases have been registerd by the Delhi Police.

(c) 1 case of theft of cement from DDA godown was registered by Delhi Police during the financial year, from 1-4-86 to 31-3-87.

Fire in a foam godown in Nangloi

204. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any investigation has been made into the causes of a big fire in a foam godown in Nangloi area in Delhi on June 24, 1987;

(b) if so, what were the causes of the fire and the extent of damage to the goods and the building in which the godown is located; and

(c) whether any lapse in the fire prevention as also fire-fighting arrangements by the fire brigade have come to the notice of the Government; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the Delhi Police, the fire occurred due to the negligence of the Management. The damage caused is reported to be about Rs. 15 lakhs.

(c) No inbuilt fire safety measures had been provided in the premises. The fire was brought under control within a reasonable time. However, some difficulty was experienced due to non-availability of water in the water storage tank of the building.

Barbed wire fencing on Bangladesh border

205. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in erecting a barbed wire fencing along the Bangladesh border to check infiltration into the country;

(b) whether the construction of a road along the Indo-Bangladesh border has been taken up; and

(c) whether any time schedule has been fixed for the completion of the border road and erection of the barbed wire fencing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Survey work for erection of barbed wire fence has been taken up in Assam and Meghalaya sectors of the Indo-Bangladesh border along with survey for construction of roads. The field survey has almost been completed in Assam sector. The work of erection of barbed wire fence will be taken up sector-wise after construction of roads.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The project of construction of roads/fence along Indo-Bangladesh border will be taken up in two phases and each phase is likely to take about five years.

Military assistance to Sri Lanka by foreign countries

206. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain countries have offered military assistance to the Government of Sri Lanka in the wake of India's action in airdropping humanitarian aid over the Jaffna Peninsula;

(b) if so, what are the names of the countries and other details thereof; and

(c) whether there have been any positive results of India's action in airdropping humanitarian aid over the Jaffna Peninsula?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has seen reports to this effect. According to Press reports, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister had mentioned China and Pakistan. Other details are not confirmed.

(c) Yes, Sir. The aid helped meet the essential and urgent needs of the people of Jaffna.